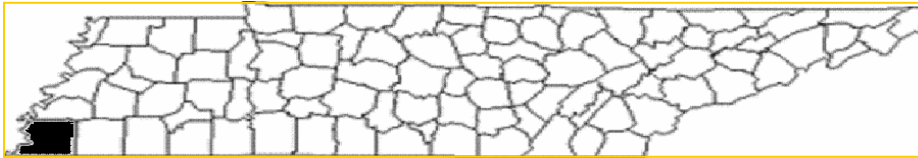


# The Status of Women in Shelby County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN SHELBY COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	40.20	30
Women's Annual Earnings	\$26,776	4
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	72.5%	40
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	45.7%	16
Female Unemployment Rate	7.0%	71
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	25.0%	70
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	50.38	51
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	26.6%	18
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	21.2%	7
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	80.1%	8
Female High School Dropout Rate	14.4%	85
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	92.7%	39
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	17.2%	66
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	15.8%	91
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	46.1	89

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Shelby County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### SHELBY

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Shelby County women earn, on average, over \$10,000 less than their male counterparts. While women have median annual earnings of \$26,776, men have earnings of \$36,932.
- ◇ Women in Shelby County are 4 percent less likely to participate in the labor force than women in Davidson County, and the female unemployment rate is 2 percent higher than it is for women in Davidson.
- ◇ Of all the workers in the county, over 33 percent of them work in managerial or professional occupations. Among women, that percent employed in managerial or professional occupations drops to 25.0%.

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Shelby ranks in the top 10 counties in percent of women with a four-year college degree (21.2%) and in percent of women with a high school diploma (80.1%). Both percentages are higher than those for Tennesseans overall: 75.9% have a high school degree and 19.6% have a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Despite the above-average percentage of female high school graduates, the female high school dropout rate is 14.4%, ranking Shelby 85th out of the 95 counties.
- ◇ Though high percentages of women have a bachelor's degree (21.2%), higher percentages of men have such a degree in Shelby County. 25.3% of all county residents have a four-year college degree.
- ◇ Of working women 17.2% earn income below the poverty level and 7.3% of women do not have any form of health insurance.
- ◇ Though 12.9% of families live below the poverty level in Shelby County, 31.1% of families with a female householder and no husband present are in poverty.
- ◇ 26.6% of private firms in the county are owned by women, yet female-owned businesses only account for 3.2% of the total sales and receipts of privately-owned companies in the county.
- ◇ 54.0% of eligible county voters are women and about 30 percent of elected county officials are women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## SHELBY

		Shelby County	Rank of Shelby County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$26,776	4	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	72.5%	40	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	45.7%	16	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	7.0%	71	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	25.0%	70	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	26.0%	18	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	21.2%	7	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	80.1%	8	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	14.4%	85	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	92.7%	39	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	17.2%	66	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	15.8%	91	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	46.1	89	Williamson: 1.2

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Shelby County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties